

Supply—Agriculture

there are vast numbers of people in the world who are not able to get the necessities of life. Some people say that one-half of the world's population is going to bed hungry every night.

Mr. Studer: Tell us a new one.

Mr. Blackmore: I am not saying that is true. I said that some people have said that. Will the hon. member question that statement? Mr. Chairman, we seem to have two or three members over yonder who are bubbling over with some sort of effervescence.

Mr. Studer: We should like to hear something new.

Mr. Blackmore: When I get through there is going to be plenty of time for the hon. member to get to his feet and talk.

Mr. Johnson (Kindersley): He is afraid to do so. He would show his stupidity.

Mr. Blackmore: What we are going to do as a nation in respect of this hunger is something concerning which I think we really should form some notion before it becomes too late. Either we are going to endeavour as a nation to participate in a movement to help to solve the problem of hunger among the peoples of less favoured lands or we are going to endeavour to live entirely to ourselves in the main and to limit our production to what we ourselves are able to consume.

Mr. Studer: How much are you producing?

Mr. Blackmore: As matters stand at the present time we are just about half-way between the two general attitudes. We talk about FAO and international distribution but we never do anything about it.

Mr. Studer: You cannot eat words.

Mr. Blackmore: Mr. Chairman, I wonder whether I should sit down and let the hon. member have the floor?

Mr. Studer: That is a good idea.

The Chairman: Order.

Mr. Blackmore: Would the hon. member like the floor to himself?

Mr. Studer: Do something because you cannot eat words.

Mr. Blackmore: Would the hon. member like the floor to himself?

Mr. Studer: Talk sense and we will listen.

Mr. Blackmore: Would the hon. member like the floor? Some people are a standing reflection on the constituencies that send them here.

Mr. Studer: They produce more than words.

Mr. Weir: There is one man standing now.

Mr. Blackmore: My general feeling is that since hunger in the world is one of the major causes for unrest which can easily contribute to a state of world disorder that might sweep civilization off its feet, we should be contemplating the means whereby we can help in solving the problem of hunger among the underprivileged. If we are going to do that in any organized sort of way, I submit there are four main considerations which we ought to have before us in this session of parliament and from now on until we find a solution.

In the first place, we should give a great deal of study to storage. In due time I should like to ask the minister a number of questions with regard to his policy with respect to storage. Then we should consider orderly production. The hon. member who has just taken his seat has pointed out how difficult it is for anyone who desires to go into the hog producing business to know what to do. It seems that the prices stay up for a little while until men go into the production of hogs, and then they go down, resulting in tremendous loss to those who have invested in the hog producing business. Then they go up again and then they go down again. Several years ago we had a fall in prices which caused a tremendous amount of loss to the people in my area. I do not see any reason why we should not devise some means whereby all our producing could be on an orderly basis and not nearly so much a haphazard concern as it has been hitherto.

Then the matter of fertilizers is one which I think should be given the utmost attention. If we propose to pass this nation on to our descendants in anything like the condition of productivity which prevailed in the nation when we took over, we should give most careful attention to how to maintain the fertility of the soil. Then I think it is time that we knew something of the minister's ideas with respect to marketing abroad. I will give the minister credit for being the only member of the cabinet up to the present time whom I have heard say anything that indicated he was aware that there was need for devising means whereby to market abroad. I believe it was in 1952 that he made a statement something like this: If we cannot learn how to get our goods into the hands of those who need them, there must be something wrong with our ideas. I wish the minister had felt free to elaborate on the concept which he had in his mind when he made that statement because I am certain that the inability or the failure to get our goods into the hands of those who need them constitutes an evidence that the whole nation of us is lacking in ideas.